Leominster Aug 6th 1843

My Dear Mrs Chapman

Your very kind & instructive letter under date June 19th was duly received. for which you have our most hearty thanks. I read it before our little society which was formed June 20th & consists of 7 members & some six or eight, who occasionally meet with us, who are not members. I assure you madam the letter was very kindly & gratefully received. it has been a great aid to us in our efforts to convince people that we could do something for the poor Slave, It is perfectly astonishing to hear really intelligent people ever saying. "I wonder what those few women think they can do to abolish Slavery." "I dont think it is womans sphere to be making such efforts to accomplish that which belongs not to them, but to men high in office". And every thing of this kind we have to reply to almost daily. to such people I lend your letter. in many instances it has not failed to convince them of their error. There is another class, which I consider by far the greater enemy to contend with- They are our clergy & our physicians & the most influential among our church members. I cannot better explain to you their true position, than to give you a little account of my labours the past week. Mrs Walker received a circular from the board of managers of the Mass Antislavery Society. requesting her to collect funds for the western mission, as she was to leave town to be gone a month. she put it into my hands. I called the attention of our society to the subject by reading the circular to them I appointed eight (There are some dozen Gentlemen real Garrisonites who invariably come into our meetings to cheer us by their sympathy & donations) men & women to assist me in collecting funds, I have spent

If there is any article to be omitted please leave the doll as we can get that here but would have to pay more for it here than there

If it is convenient for you to send these articles to me next week of Tuesday (15th inst) it will oblige us very much as we have our usual meeting on that day. You can send by Leonard Day who drives the Leominster accommodation Stage. you can send your bundle at Brattle Street Hotel

I do not know as you can read this very imperfect sheet. my eyes are so weak I cannot tell one letter from another

Ms.A.4.6A.1.81

a day and a half and ~~[illegible]~~ all I could get was two dollars 25 cts Every person I called on was an avowed abolitionist. & what is more, were all persons of standing, & much property. who would not hesitate to contribute ten, or twenty dollars if called on, for the support of some sectarian school or church. why all this unwillingness to aid this glorious missionary enterprise? The unitarian minister gave one dollar, wishing this protest to accompany it. "I cannot consistently do any thing for the mass society so long as they send out such men as Collins & Remond. what I give must go to individuals of better principle than they are". he said he felt this missionary cause to be of very great importance & would gladly aid, if it was carried on by men whom he could approve of. all these things he says publickly & privately, and has thereby prejudiced the minds of the people so much against these men, that no one who is disposed to be governed by him (and not a few are so governed) will [illegible] a cent to this cause. The real truth is, these men tell so plainly who the slave holders, are when they say "thou art the man". as they did when here last winter. they did not hesitate to charge the Slaveholding Spirit in this town to the clergy. inasmuch as they withheld their influence from antislavery efforts.

I am utterly opposed to receiving such aid for the Slave. I firmly believe the Slave would scorn to receive his liberty on such principles I have ever refused the aid of all, who would not give it in faith perhaps I am wrong. certainly many of our best abolitionists here differ from me. they say take all you can get for the cause. when I ask a person to aid and they refuse because I am identified with Garrison or Remond in this cause think you it is my duty to take any of their aid in any form or for any specific purpose? nay, I had infinitely rather make the most possible personal sacrifice to provide the necessary means to go on with the work. I asked the unitarian minister's wife to lend their influence to our efforts for the Fair. he said he did not

I have written to Mr Phillips to come here and lecture in Sept to get up an interest before the fair that we may be enabled to do more for that object. He has answered me yet. he told a friend of mine he did not think he could come. I do wish he might & we need some one now very much & he is just the one some who would flee if Garrison were to come ~~who~~ would gladly hear Phillips.

Gratefully
thine
Frances
H.
Drake
Sec
of the
Leom
Garrisonian
Society

like some of the officers in the Mass Society & also the men
they sent out as lecturers therefore he could not assist us. still he
had no objection whatever to the Fair, in it self it was a very good
thing. his wife said she thought my exertions were very praise worthy & deserved encouragement, and she was willing to help me. Shame
on such philanthrophy. I spurn it. I ask no reward of merit for
doing my duty. it is sympathy and aid, for the Slave I ask, to be given
from pure & holy motives, & with a real desire to better the condition
of a poor down trodden, crushed portion of God's dear children -
The unitarian church in this place is by far the most popular, & could we only
get the minister (who says he is an abolitionist of twelve years standing)
right on this subject, all the people would be right, he has the most
influence over his people of any minister I ever saw, he is decidedly
popular wherever he is known, being uncommonly talented. I told him
if he could sanction our doings for the Fair I presumed fifty of our
most popular & wealthy ladies church members would take hold in good faith.
instead of that not a member of that church will do a thing,
except my self. & certainly I don't wish to be a member of such a
church, I feel it to be my duty to withdraw, or stay away from it.
In view of all this opposition in high places. I feel constrained to
thank you most heartily. for the publication of the letter
in the last Liberator which was published at Mr Jackson's request.
It is just what we want here. I shall loose no time in circulating it.
I had hoped you would send me something of this kind in answer
to this. but am glad you anticipated me. it will do a good work here.
As you were so kind as to offer to assist us, we shall accept your offer by requesting
you to get for us, if convenient. 1/4 yard of canvas for bags. and some cruel to
work them. I should like several shades of blue (say four) and wood colour
you may get four shades of each. I believe the cruel is two cts a knot. please get twenty
knots - if you can get a pretty piece of blue silk 1/4 of a yard, for the top
of one, we should like it. please get any thing that will suit your own taste
whether it be blue or wood colour, the bags are to be wrought in clouded form

if you have any pretty patterns for plain bags or needle books
we would thank you for them. or patterns for childrens aprons-
any such things will be a great help to us. I send you some pieces of
satin I donot know as they are suitable for printing- I wish you
would have one printed for me to present to Mr Garrison. some
warm sentiment expressive of my esteem and regard for him, such
as you would think proper, would please me. I will send you
a little pinball as a pattern of which I wish to make one for him.
can this be done, & would it be proper? I donot know what the expense
of the articles may be which I have requested you to get, I will send you
one dollar & 25cts. if it will pay for the articles- and a large jointed doll
that is worth fifty cts. we will thank you to get that. for us to dress- We
have some young ladies who donot understand embroidery but
have good taste for making fancy articles. We shall not be able
to furnish much variety that will be pretty, still we hope to be
able to furnish a table even if it be an inferior one. We go on most
happily among ourselves- but without we a terrible enemy-
One church member has said that I was the means of keeping some
fifty ladies from joing the society, the question was asked why.
the answer was because I was so familliar with coloured people
when they come here, Charles & Caroline Remond visited us a few
weeks since & I rode with them & walked with them, this was
more than wouldbe abolitionists could bear. 'Ladies' said I could
be just as good an abolitionists, and desire the slaves freedom just as
well and still not treat nigers so familiarly. If I prevent ladies
from joing the society who are no more antislavery than to
barely wish the slave to be free from the whip, and still be in
the most degraded condition imagineable by the scorn & neglect
of his wouldbe superior white bretheren- I think such antislavery
of but little service to the coloured man as such, they have
no hearts to feel for their wrongs in other respects than that of
being beaten. Heaven knows this is bad enough- but what is it, compared to the servitude of the immortal mind: just nothing
I am informed some really intellegent ladies have said they were willing to do anything for the cause, but did not wish to become members of any society to whom I belonged, as I carried my views quite to far for respectability, in being disposed
to treat the coloured people as my equals, they thought the blacks
should have their place & keep in it. One lady to test my principles asked
me if I would marry a coloured man. I answered very frankly (as my nature
ever prompts) Yes,- if he was just as worthy in every respect as a white man
ought to be. You can have no idea what a talk it has made all over town
you understand all this, so enough.

Maria W Chapman

If it is convenient for you to send these articles next week it would

Mrs Drake. Aug 6th P.S.
Enclosing $1.25 to
be expended for the
Fair
1843

Aug 6 1843

Ms.A.4.6A.1.51.